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FILED

February 25, 2003

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF

JOHN R. COOKE, **M.D.**
License No. MA070958

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER OF
REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSURE

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was initially opened to the State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") upon the filing of a Consent Order Of Voluntary Surrender of **Licensure**, dated November 16, 2001, in **which** John R. **Cooke, M.D.**, surrendered his license to practice **medicine** and surgery in the **State** of **New** Jersey for a minimum period of *six* (6) months after a relapse into **the** abuse of alcohol.

On or about November 6, 2002, Dr. Cooke, accompanied by David I. Canavan, M.D., **Medical** Director Emeritus of the Medical Society of New Jersey Physicians' Health Program ("PHP"), appeared without counsel, and testified before a Committee of the Board.

At this appearance, Dr. Cooke testified that he has completely complied with the terms of the November 2001 Order. He stated that **he** completed his initial six (6) month period of voluntary surrender, and then waited **an** additional six (6) months prior to petitioning the Board for reinstatement to allow even **more** counseling and recovery **time**. Dr. Cooke testified that he is currently being treated by psychologist Arnold M. Washton, Ph.D., two (2) times per week, and **is also** being treated by Naomi Vilko, M.D., a psychiatrist and psychotherapist, once every 4-6 weeks. In addition, **he also sees** Dr. Howard Paul, a psychologist in North Brunswick, for counseling. The Board notes that Dr. Cooke has discontinued the **use of** Antibus, as directed by his treating physician.

Dr. Cooke testified that in July 2001, he entered into in-patient treatment at the Marworth Treatment Center in Waverly, Pennsylvania. Dr. Cooke stated that after his **discharge** from Marworth in August 2001, **he relapsed** again about one month later. Thereafter, Dr. Washton recommended intensive out-patient treatment at the Smithers Addiction Treatment **Center** at St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital in New York, **five** (5) days per week, which **ended in April** 2002. Dr. Cooke stated this program was successful and truly **helped** him get on the right path.

Dr. Canavan then presented the PHP's Position Statement to the Committee, which **supports** the doctor's return to practice. Dr. Canavan testified that Dr. Cooke's urine tests have been

consistently clear of any alcohol or mood altering drugs and that he is in compliance with the PHP program.

Dr. Cooke then submitted a status report from Dr. Washton, dated October 1, 2002, which stated that Dr. Cooke has "**complied** fully with **all** aspects of his **treatment plan**." In addition, Dr. Washton believed that Dr. Cooke "continues to demonstrate a sincere commitment to recovery and his **prognosis is excellent**." Dr. Cooke next submitted a status report from Dr. Paul, dated October 3, 2002, which stated that Dr. Cooke is "diligent, committed and highly motivated to **succeed** and **maintain** his hard fought **sobriety**." Finally, Dr. Cooke **submitted** a status report from Dr. Vilko, dated October 28, 2002, which also **details** Dr. Cooke's positive prognosis.

Dr. Cooke now seeks leave to **resume** the practice **of** medicine and surgery in the State of **New Jersey**. The Board finding that Dr. Cooke has satisfied all of the requirements of the November 2001 Order and that the within disposition is adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare,

IT IS, therefore, on this 25th day of February, 2003,
ORDERED THAT:

1. The **license** to practice medicine and surgery of **John R. Cooke, M.D.** previously surrendered is hereby restored, subject to the restrictions set forth herein.

2. Dr. Cooke shall refrain from taking any psychoactive substances, unless those substances are prescribed by a treating physician for a **documented** medical condition, and only *if* notification is first given to the Medical Director of the PHP.

3. Dr. Cooke shall attend **Alcoholics** Anonymous meetings at a **minimum frequency** of three (3) times per **week** until **he** completes his first full year of employment, and then on a schedule *to be* determined **by** the Medical Director **of the** PHP.

4. Dr. Cooke shall participate in random urine monitoring, **once per week**, conducted under the auspices of the PHP until he completes **his** first full year of employment, and then on a schedule *to be* determined by the Medical Director of the PHP.

5. Dr. Cooke shall continue his formal aftercare program with Dr. **Arnold** Washton and Dr. Naomi Vilko until his discharge from such programs. Dr. Cooke **agrees to** notify the Board, in writing, if **he** wishes to make any **changes** to **his** aftercare program, including, but not limited **to**, any change in *his* therapists, and the Board must consent to any such changes in advance.


6. Dr. **Cooke** shall meet for bi-monthly face-to-face visits with a representative from the PHP to **discuss** his progress until he completes **his** first full year of employment, and then on a schedule *to be* determined by the Medical Director of the PHP.

7. The **PHP** shall submit quarterly reports to the Board on **Dr. Cooke's compliance** with his treatment plan and with the Board's mandates, and shall agree to immediately notify the Board if Dr.

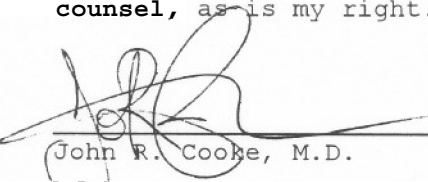
Cooke suffers a relapse or fails to comply with his aftercare program.

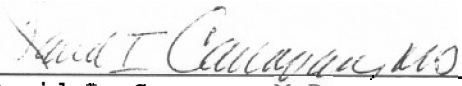
8. The Board's records reflect that Dr. Cooke is not currently employed. Dr. Cooke agrees to notify the Board in writing if he **wishes** to commence/change **employment**, which shall be **subject to** Board approval. Dr. Cooke agrees to disclose his **involvement** with the PHP to any future **employer** and obtain the express **agreement** of the employer, in writing, that it will notify the PHP of any **evidence of a** relapse.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: 
William V. Harrer, M.D., B.L.D.
President

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order. I understand that this Order has legal consequences and have decided to enter into this agreement with the Board without the advice of legal counsel, as is my right.


John R. Cooke, M.D.
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David I. Canavan, M.D.
Medical Director Emeritus, PHP